

**ABSTRACT**

A mounting mechanism for the probe tip of a Scanning Probe Microscope (SPM) includes a scanner supported by a stationary frame, and a kinematic mechanism supported by the scanner. The kinematic mechanism includes at least three protrusions and at least one magnet. The mounting mechanism for the probe tip also includes a chip mount having a hole, a slot and a flat surface. The chip mount, on being held by the magnet, provides an easy way to mount the probe tip without requiring any tools.